MacRoberts, M.H. and B.R. MacRoberts. 2010. *Hydrocleys nymphoides* (Limnocharitaceae): New to Louisiana. Phytoneuron 2010-29: 1–2.

HYDROCLEYS NYMPHOIDES (LIMNOCHARITACEAE): NEW TO LOUISIANA

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ABSTRACT

Hydrocleys nymphoides (Willd.) Buchenau is documented as growing outside of cultivation in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, the first record for the state.

KEY WORDS: Limnocharitaceae, *Hydrocleys nymphoides*, Louisiana, non-native species.

On 8 July 2010, we discovered *Hydrocleys nymphoides* (Willd.) Buchenau, commonly known as water-poppy, growing in a ditch in Columbia Park, a four hectare public park in Shreveport, Louisiana (Caddo Parish). Specimens were collected (*MacRoberts & MacRoberts 8660, 8669, 8670*) and deposited at LSU and LSUS).

The *Hydrocleys* population covers a one-by-three meter area at ca. 70 m elevation (32° 28' 59.9" N, 93° 44' 41.5" W). It produced 18 flowers (Figs. 1 and 2) during the period 8–25 July. The ditch is wet with slow-flowing water and standing shallow pools and is partly fed by seepage from surrounding hills. Associated species included *Acmella repens*, *Alternathera philoxeroides, Cyperus flavicomus, Diodia virginiana*, *Eleocharis obtusa*, *Hydrocotyle verticillata*, *Kyllinga brevifolia*, and *Sagittaria platyphylla*.

Hydrocleys nymphoides, a native of Central and South America, has previously been reported from Florida and southeastern Texas but not Louisiana (Haynes 2000; Turner et al. 2003; Kartesz & Meacham 2005; Diggs et al. 2006; NatureServe 2010; USDA, NRCS 2010). *Hydrocleys* is sometimes grown as an aquarium plant or cultivated in pools and ponds and persists following dumping of aquaria (Diggs et al. 2006). How long the species has been in Columbia Park is not known, but a dog walker and horticulturist told us that it was not there in 2009.

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Figure 1. *Hydrocleys nymphoides* in Columbia Park, Shreveport, La.

Figure 2. *Hydrocleys nymphoides* flower.